

*draft*



## Town of Vernon

## Open Space Task Force

Minutes of Special Meeting November 15, 2010

*Meeting Location: Town Council Chambers, Town Hall*

**Present:** Tom Ouellette, Russ Kunz, Ginny Gingras, Ann Letendre, chairperson

**Guests:** Scott Weiting, Ryan Goad, George Arthur

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm.

### **1.0 Update – Talcottville Gorge**

Ann provided an update of negotiations between Talcott family and the Northern CT Land Trust. It is expected that the closing would be December 1<sup>st</sup>. The transaction is the culmination of discussions initiated by the OSTF about eight years ago with Don Quinn, Talcott's attorney. The NCLT needs \$5,000 at the closing, and \$5,000 as stewardship costs to maintain the property, including upgrading of the trail, installing a bridge near the rock outcrop, etc. The acreage is 20 acres. Talcotts have withdrawn request for a fence and hydropower rights. NCLT will request the \$5,000 needed for the closing from the Vernon Town Council Nov 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Discussion ensued about support from the CC and OSTF at Citizen's Forum. It was decided that Ginny would speak for the OSTF and Scott would speak for the CC. Ann will email specifics about historic facts and other resource information on the property.

### **2.0 Update – Gunther Property**

Ginny reported that the Gunthers want to preserve the farm. The Tolland Ag Center wants the land. Purchase, open space grant funds are being sought. Elizabeth Moore from CT Farmland Trust is helping the group. TAC does not want the buildings, but sources are being looked into for saving the barns, which are in need of repair.


### **3.0 Update – Tancanhoosen LLC**

Ann spoke with Beth Brothers at DEP. At present negotiations are in progress between DEP and Tancanhoosen LLC. DEP has sent the LLC an offer for all four parcels, with a decision date of Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Beth said if the offer was accepted, it would take several months thereafter before final papers would be signed. DEP has to do inventories on the property, and other preparation work.

### **4.0 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Ann Letendre, Co-chairperson

Signed copy sent to Town Clerk